

# Community of St. John Baptist

## Guidelines for entering Community

Updated 8/21/2020

### Before applying, applicants must:

- be free of responsibility for the care of family members
- be free of debt.
- be a member of the Episcopal Church
- be over 21 years of age.
- obtain a physical examination declaring that she is in good health

### After an application is submitted:

- The applicant will spend two weeks as a visitor with the Community, then another two weeks at a later time to allow for taking time off work. Between the two-week visits, there will be phone and zoom meetings between the Novice Director and the Aspirant.
- The applicant will undergo standard psychological screening tests required for all clergy and Religious in the Diocese of Newark.
- The applicant will agree to a background check through the Diocese of Newark.
- The applicant will live alongside the Sisters, learn about our life and determine whether she would like to be considered to be a Postulant.
- The applicant will continue to provide her own healthcare coverage.

### After being received as a Postulant:

- The Postulant will share our life for six months.
- The Postulant will provide her own wardrobe of simple black dress or black skirt, white blouse and black shoes.
- The Postulant will be assigned jobs within the Community.
- The Postulant will participate in daily recreation.
- The Postulant will receive regular training in prayer and community life.
- The Postulant will continue to provide her own health insurance coverage, but the Community will provide all over-the-counter medications and toiletries for the Postulant.
- At the end of six months the Postulant will inform the Novice Director if she would like to continue as a Novice.
- The Community will decide whether the Postulant will continue as a Novice and will begin preparations for a Novice Clothing ceremony.

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### After being received as a Novice:

- The Novice will receive a religious name and habit.
- The Novice will receive a black wooden Novice cross.
- The Novice will receive regular training in prayer and community life.
- The Novice will be evaluated by the Community every six months.
- After one year, the Novice will be added to the Community health insurance policy.
- The Novice will receive a Community credit card to be used only within our strict guidelines, and a small monthly cash allowance.
- The Novice will be provided 28 days of vacation and/or retreat time which is the standard for all Sisters.
- The Novice will share our life for two to three years before being considered for election to Temporary Vows (also called First Profession.)
- If elected, the Novice will prepare for the ceremony of Reception of First Vows.

### After being elected to Temporary Vows (First Profession):

- The First Professed Sister will make vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience for one year.
- The First Professed Sister will receive a silver cross, cincture and small New Testament.
- The First Professed Sister may be invited to observe Chapter and Board meetings, but will have no vote or voice in Chapter and Board discussions.
- The First Professed Sister will be evaluated by the Community every six months.
- At the end of the year, the First Professed Sister may ask to be elected Temporary Vows for an additional year. These Vows may be renewed annually for at least three years.
- After two to three years, the First Professed Sister may request to be considered for election to Life Vows.

### After being elected to Life Vows:

- The Life Professed Sister will make vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience for the remainder of her life.
- The Life Professed Sister will receive a gold wedding ring which she will wear on her right-hand ring finger.
- The Life Professed Sister will be allowed to vote in Chapter and to be elected to Community positions.
- The Community will provide for the Life Professed Sister's healthcare and other needs for the remainder of her life.